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Progress Report, June 1973.

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Progress Report

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

June 1973

10006 - 107 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Tel.: (403) 424-6186

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FOREWORD

The Task Force, in its review of urban and regional research in Alberta, has initially concentrated on such fundamental matters as data, information and research inventories. This work is important in the support it can provide for more effective planning, research and decision making. For this reason a number of projects have been undertaken for completion within the coming year. These include: an Inventory of Urban and Regional Research in Alberta (1950-1972), Economic and Social Statistics for Alberta Municipalities, and the Co-ordination of Information Systems and Data Banks in Alberta. Research Officers have been employed for each of these projects.

The Task Force Staff is at present preparing reports on Present and Proposed Research Programs, The Funding of Research, The Identification of Priority Areas in Policy Research.

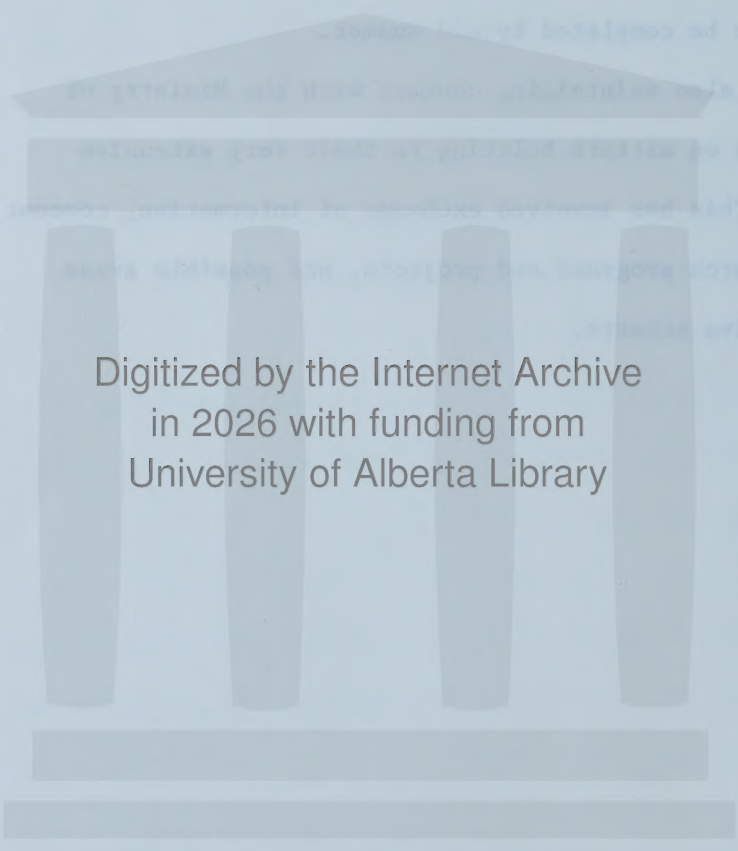
In addition to this ongoing work, the Task Force is funding or is assisting in the publication of studies of significant policy concern; land and serviced lot costs, declining communities, variation in patterns of urban growth and citizen participation.

This includes the Mill Woods Impact Study, the Regional Resources Project No. 1 (Drumheller Area), and the Town of High River - Planning Methods and Development Policy Report. A project currently under discussion involves a regional approach to the provision of such services as ambulance, libraries, sanitary land-fill and metropolitan parks.

The Task Force Staff is participating in a number of metropolitan studies. It is represented on the technical or steering committee

of: The Metropolitan Edmonton Growth Study, and The Calgary Urban Evaluation Study. Two additional studies involve a review and evaluation of the Ring Road proposals for our two metropolitan areas. The Metropolitan Growth studies for Calgary and Edmonton are in an early stage of the work. The Ring Road Evaluations are being prepared by the firm of de Leuw Cather for the Department of Highways and the reports are expected to be completed by mid summer.

The Staff is also maintaining contact with the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs on matters relating to their very extensive urban research role. This has involved exchange of information, comment and discussion on research programs and projects, and possible areas for joint or co-operative efforts.



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TASK FORCE PROJECTS

Inventory of Urban and Regional Research in Alberta

The inventory includes Federal, Provincial, Regional, Municipal, University and non governmental research. It will be cross indexed by author, subject matter and location, and will be provided to all persons or agencies concerned with urban oriented research in the Province. To date, the work for the following agencies has been completed: all Regional Planning Commissions, the City of Edmonton, the City of Calgary, Alberta Housing Corporation and the Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Approximately fifty percent of the work has been completed for the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. Work is proceeding on the remaining cities in the Province and Provincial Departments and Agencies. The Task Force will be making recommendations on arrangements to keep the inventory updated. The research officer for the project is Linda DeGrandis.

Co-ordination of Information Systems and Data Banks in Alberta

With the increasing use of the computer and the increasing number of agencies at all levels of government initiating data banks, there has been general recognition of the need for a more systematic approach towards co-ordination of systems. This Task Force Project is examining the nature and content of all existing data banks in the Province, including the method of parcel identification. The study will examine: how present systems can utilize and relate to one another, in what areas there is a need for greater co-ordination, the methods by which this might be

achieved, the more complete use of existing data and equipment and questions relating to privacy and accessibility of information. The committee supervising this project consists of the Acting Assistant Provincial Auditor, the Provincial Director of Surveys, a representative of the Alberta Bureau of Statistics and the Director of the Task Force. The work on the project to date has included a review of the work done in this field in other areas in Canada and abroad. Preliminary discussions have been held with city, regional and provincial personnel and major public utilities on general problems and approaches. Work has been completed on the Questionnaire which will provide the basic information for the study. The research co-ordinator is Ernie Tessari.

Social and Economic Performance Indicators

This project is being carried out in co-operation with the Department of Municipal Affairs. Comparable economic and social statistics in a time series are being gathered and will be published for each incorporated municipality in Alberta. Included would be such information as population, population change, births, deaths, migration, age and employment structure, retail sales, building permits, per capita income, land cost, per capita assessment and municipal debt, levels of social service, car ownership etc. The information to be included is now being decided in consultation with the many agencies who are potential users and suppliers of this information. The co-operation to date has been very encouraging. This kind of comparable information is not now readily available from a single source. This is a one year project; the research officer is Benjamin Fanta.

RESEARCH GRANTS PROVIDED BY TASK FORCE TO ASSIST URBAN ORIENTED RESEARCH

Regional Resources Project No. 1 (Drumheller Area)

This is a one year pilot project which has been in operation since September 1972. The objective is economic and community development, and involves the provision of information and technical assistance to the eleven municipalities involved. The project is administered by the municipalities and the technical advisor and project director is Mr. Hugh Bodmer, with offices in Carbon. The work to date has involved preparation of community inventories, information centres in each community, housing demand studies, water supply and drainage study for each community, and community development courses. Six of the communities have formed local development co-operatives. (See Appendix.) It is expected that these agencies may provide one effective method to encourage needed development. The project has had strong support from the citizens and Councils of the participating municipalities. One effect of the project has been a greater awareness and utilization of existing government assistance programs. A Review and Evaluation of the Project is now being prepared by Robert C. Scace and Associates. This will be available by the end of June.

Research Design For A Mill Woods Impact Study

This study is being jointly sponsored by C.M.H.C., A.H.C. and the Task Force. Its objective is to define a research program related to land and serviced lot costs in urban areas. A key aspect of the

study is to outline a method (and the information required) to measure the impact over time of large scale public land development (Mill Woods) on serviced lot costs in the Metro area. The research proposals will be primarily policy oriented, the objective being to provide a sounder basis for land policy decisions. A preliminary draft of the report has been prepared and the final report is expected by July 15. The Consultants preparing the report are Professor S.M. McFadyen and Professor C.T.L. Janssen.

Town of High River - Planning and Policies Report

Over the past several years the Town of High River has engaged in a number of interesting projects; a central area mall development, a public land assembly and development program, a particularly imaginative open space plan and a long range growth strategy. The projects are of interest in terms of the planning methods, administrative devices, and the quality of design. The Task Force is assisting the town in publishing a summary of this work, since it should prove of interest to other municipalities. The report is being prepared by Arni Fullerton.

Regional Services Feasibility Study

The City of Lethbridge and the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission have made preliminary enquiries concerning Task Force assistance for a proposed study. The study would examine the possibility of providing certain services; solid waste disposal, ambulance, fire fighting and library services on a regional rather than a municipal level. There may be advantages in terms of both cost and/or level of service. A more detailed proposal is being submitted.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

As part of the review of urban and regional research in Alberta, the staff is, at present, examining research programs. The work involves the identification of current and emerging urban issues, the research completed or contemplated by different agencies concerning these areas, the aspects which appear to be receiving inadequate attention, methods of initiating or funding research in these significant areas.

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

BOARD MEMBERS

The Honourable D.J. Russell, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Chairman)

The Honourable D. Getty, Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

His Worship I.G. Dent, Mayor of the City of Edmonton

His Worship J.R.W. Sykes, Mayor of the City of Calgary

His Worship R.P. Swanson, Mayor of the City of Camrose

His Worship R.E. Barrett, Mayor of the City of Red Deer

STAFF

Frank Marlyn, Director

Michael K. Rumball, Research Officer

Valerie E. Edwards, Secretary

APPENDIX

REGIONAL RESOURCES PROJECT NO. 1

Opportunities for Youth Projects

1. BEISEKER: B.A.C.E. (Betterment for the Aged, Children and the Environment)

Approved budget:	$8,211.00
Employment:	Aprox. 9 students
Description:	Self-explanatory
Project Leader:	Glen Rau

2. ACME: Educational Recreational Activities

Approved budget:	$4,230.00
Employment:	5 students
Description:	Playground supervision, planned recreational activities for young people
Project Leader:	Dennise Klasson

3. TROCHU: Development and Upgrading of Agricultural Fair Grounds and Community Park

Approved budget:	$8,640.00
Employment:	9 students
Description:	Planting trees, clean-up etc.
Project Leader:	Doug Stewart

4. CARBON: Carbon and District Recreation Project

Approved budget:	$4,020.00
Employment:	6 students
Description:	Playground supervision, planned recreational activities, improvement of athletic skills
Project Leader:	Chuck Graham

5. MORRIN: Recreation, Facility Improvement

Approved budget:	$2,215.00
Employment:	4 students
Description:	Self-explanatory
Project Leader:	Allan Woolsey

6. ROSEDALE: Nature's Hidden Resources

Approved budget:	$4,859.00
Employment:	8 students
Description:	Mapping out of fossils, etc., in selected locations in the Drumheller Valley
Project Leader:	Fred Dayman

REGIONAL RESOURCES PROJECT NO. 1

Local Development Companies Established

1. Acme and District Development Cooperative Association Ltd.
   President: Clarence Smith
   Share Price: $20.

2. Bassano and District Local Development Co-op Ltd.
   President: Lloyd Brown
   Share Price: $10.

3. Beiseker and District Local Development Co-op Ltd.
   President: Matt Hagel
   Share Price: $10.

4. Rockyford and District Local Development Co-operative Association Ltd.
   President: William Reiger
   Share Price: $10.

5. Standard and District Local Development Co-op Ltd.
   President: Donald Sundgaard
   Share Price: $50.

6. Trochu and District Local Development Co-op Ltd.
   President: Allan Gehring
   Share Price: $10.

7. Rosedale and District Local Development Co-operative Ltd.
   President: Peter Ludwig
   Share Price: $10.

8. Carbon and District Development Co-operative Association Ltd.
   President: Walter Permann
   Share Price: $50.

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